

Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council (SEORAC/RAC) Meeting
Minutes February 24, 2003
Holiday Inn Conference Room, Ontario, OR

RAC Members Present: Group Number:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---|
| Ken Bentz | 2003 | 1 |
| Jim Campbell | 2004 | 1 |
| Tom Harris | 2005 | 1 |
| Mark Ferns | 2005 | 1 |
| Dick Leever | 2005 | 1 |
| John Bishop | 2005 | 2 |
| John Bishop | 2005 | 2 |
| Mike Golden | 2005 | 2 |
| Bob Kindschy | 2004 | 2 |
| Jill Workman | 2003 | 2 |
| Chad Boyd | 2003 | 3 |
| Cecil Dick | 2004 | 3 |
| Marilyn Miller | 2003 | 3 |
| Jane O’Keeffe | 2004 | 3 |
| Walt Van Dyke | 2003 | 3 |

RAC Members Absent

| | | |
|-------------|------|---|
| Lee Belknap | 2004 | 2 |
|-------------|------|---|

Federal Officials Present:

Dave Henderson, DFO, Vale BLM
Margaret Bailey, Acting for Roger Williams,
Malheur NF
Tom Dyer, Burns BLM
Tom Rasmussen acting for Steve Ellis, Lakeview
BLM/ Fremont/Winema NF

Federal Officials Absent:

Guests:

Jon Sadowski, Vale BLM
Elaine Brong, OR State Director BLM
Tom Dabbs, Vale BLM
Jack Sheenan, Fremont NF
Tom McElroy, Grazing Advisory Board-Malheur
Bob Skinner, OCA
Tom Christensen, Vale BLM
Wayne Wetzel, Vale BLM
Randy Eyre, Vale BLM
Jerry Taylor, Vale BLM
Rick Elston, Fremont/Winema NF

Jill Workman, RAC Chair

- Opened the meeting at 8:00 am with self- introductions.

Jill Workman – Minutes

Jill reviewed the previous meeting minutes. Jane O’Keeffe moved and Bob Kindschy seconded that the minutes be approved, minutes were approved as written.

Peggy Diegan-Summer Lake Inn meeting near Christmas Valley in May/Nomination Forms

- Logistics of the May 27-28 meeting is to meet at the Summer Lake Inn.
 - Need 15 attendee’s to sign up for both Monday and Tuesday night to have the meeting there.
- Nomination forms were sent out in the meeting packet.
 - Will send out electronically too.
 - Five terms are up this year
 - Group 1 (Ken Bentz).
 - Group 2 (Jill Workman)
 - Group 3 (Chad Boyd)
 - Group 3 (Marilyn Miller)
 - Group 3 (Walt VanDyke)

JON SADOWSKI-GMA Sage Grouse process, analysis, and evaluation.

- Information in the GIS system on the Vale District.
 - Land treatments after a fire include rehabilitation and restoration projects.
 - Cumulative effects of land treatments since 1982.
 - Sage grouse leks are also shown on map.

- Grazing Management Areas (GMA's).
- File tells us what year a fire occurred and what impact on wildlife and vegetation.
 - If forage is lost to fire it affects the grouse and other wildlife.
 - Wildlife responds to what is happening to the land and the vegetation.
 - Need to look at sage grouse that are wide ranging that use many habitat types.
 - Nesting grouse need taller structures (vegetation) etc.
 - Need current update on this information.
- GIS system is great at building graphics (maps) that shows what is happening on the land.
 - The information can be used to support wildlife and vegetation.
 - Shows where treatments should be done and where to be careful to not remove too much habitat.
- Higher quality rangeland that is predominantly native takes a long time to come back after a fire.
 - Burn in the 40's still looks like grassland, the sagebrush has never came back.
 - Prescribed fires will continue when there is a need.
- Southeast Oregon Resource Management Plan (SEOR-RMP) wants to operate with no more than 30 percent of land that is grassland.
- Along roads you get some distribution of seeds from vehicles and also some wind.
 - This gives good diversity for the wildlife.
 - Pockets of sagebrush are a good thing.
- In Oregon BLM is trying to pull together a map that addresses these issues.
 - Seasonal movement patterns and how does fire affect this.
 - Do we have resident birds and how does this affect them?
 - Winter observation notes show winter occupancy and these areas become critical.
- Oregon Fish and Wildlife tagged some birds north of Jordan Valley 10 to 15 yrs ago.
 - Birds pretty much stayed in the areas they were tagged.
 - There was a fire and the tagged birds crossed the Owyhee River to the Saddle Butte area.
 - The birds do the same thing if snow is in their habitat.
- Not all seeding takes 100%.
 - Map can show what was seeded and what was not seeded.
 - Allows good comparisons between areas.
- Discussion is going on how fire currently being suppressed.
 - Back-burning may not always be the way to go.
 - Need to look at other ways to suppress fire.
 - Interior Columbia Basin Environmental Management Plan (ICBEMP) and other wildlife agencies have guidelines.
- If we do a good job managing habitat, livestock can be grazed and everyone can be happy.
 - Need to operate within a range that will allow everyone to get what is needed.

CHAD BOYD Sage Grouse Subcommittee Update

- Did not attend the last meeting of the sage grouse meeting in Bend.
 - Reviewed the notes and the plan draft will be out soon for review.
- **Walt Van Dyke**
 - West Nile virus has potential effect on Sage Grouse.
 - It also affects other species of birds such as magpies and ravens, etc.
 - Draft proposal is out to look at the potential impact.

- Proposal to send birds back east to be studied is not feasible because you cannot feed these birds anything but sagebrush.
- It takes 30 days to test a bird and the bird has a good chance of dying early because of not getting the correct feed.
- Lot of effort to contain the New Castle disease that can affect wildlife.
- Genetic work has been done using the wing samples from hunter harvested sagegrouse.
 - Wide genetic variability and similarity.
 - No basis to declare western and eastern subspecies in Oregon.

TOM DYER-Steens Mountain Update/Andrews RMP

- History on Andrews was part of the Southeast Oregon Resource Management Plan (SEORMP) process.
 - After the legislation it was separated and included with the Steens Mountain.
 - Preplan out using some of the information from the SEORMP.
 - Contractor hired to do the plan.
 - Enviroscientists, Inc. from Reno, NV.
- A Steens Mountain/Andrews Committee (SMAC) meeting scheduled for next week.
 - Contractors are always represented at the SMAC.
 - Scoping is completed.
 - Public input 3601 comment letters came in.
 - 1844 form letters
 - Comments fell into 23 categories.
 - Top 3 Noxious Weeds, Grazing, and Recreation was the main focus.
- Newsletters out asking for further comments.
- Draft completed on two chapters.
 - Chapter 1 is the Introduction.
 - Chapter 3 is Affected Environment.
 - ID team is fine tuning Chapter 2 for Proposed Actions and Alternatives-Proposed goals and objectives developed by resource.
 - Proposed management actions developed by alternative to meet objectives.
 - Working closely with contractors on Chapter 4 (Environmental Consequences).
 - Formal cooperating agencies.
 - Malheur NWR, City of Burns, City of Hines, Harney County, Oregon DEQ and ODFW.
 - Other Participating agencies.
 - Burns Paiute Tribe
 - USFWS Ecological Services
- Preliminary Draft RMP/EIS should be completed by mid April.
 - RAC will be asked to comment on this document.
 - Draft scheduled to be out in August.
 - Completion the end of October, 2004.
- Focus is on new information that has come in.
 - SMAC to have jurisdiction on this.
 - SEORAC can still review.
 - Areas outside the boundary-needs to be covered by SEORAC and not the SMAC.

- Ranch land and private land access need to be addressed over the short term and the long term.
 - Legislation says reasonable use, keep this in mind.
- Range access will be finished up.
- Focus on moving into the planning aspect as apposed to leaning on winter recreation
 - Majority focus on recreation zones inside a wilderness.
- Strong direction on how to deal with access.
- Fencing removal is on schedule needs to be done in 3 years time using volunteers to help with this.
 - Use of plastic tubes to put the steel posts into and then use pack animals to take out.
 - Looking at better ways to get this done.
 - Could also use helicopters to do a quicker removal of these fences.
 - It takes a lot of effort to roll the fencing up to fit into the plastic tubes to put on the pack animals.
- Running camp EA went out a month ago with a decision to allow the running camp.
 - There are numbers identified on how many folks can use the running camp.
 - Impact when the runners were running the canyon area.
 - Assign responsibilities and some control on numbers.
 - Is the number really impacting the trails?
 - Use of existing sheep camp trail.
 - Is this proper activity that should occur here?
 - Identify routes ahead of time.
 - Changed meadow access and asked them to go around the area for less impact.
 - Use harder surface areas.
 - Drawn more interest that anything else in this area.
 - Running camp exemplifies what we have to do.
- There will be limits put on other activities that may occur in the future.
- We are currently trying to set direction to manage the area.
- Try to make as many folks happy as possible.
- Critical to timing is recreation and transportation.
- In-holders are still inside the wilderness.
 - In-holders access document is also being worked on.
 - Need addition funding for acquisition and easements of these properties still inside the wilderness
- **Elaine Brong**
 - The Land and Water Conservation fund took a large budget hit this year because of the economy.
 - This will result in delays in acquiring property.
 - Appropriations have been finalized by congress.
 - BLM faired better with increases on some of our plans, energy policy, looking for increases in horses.
 - FS took a hit.
- **Tom Dyer**
 - Tom Harris and Mike Golden represent the RAC with the SMAC.
 - Let them know of any issues.
 - The next meeting is March 3-4 in Burns.

DAVE HENDERSON/JILL WORKMAN-National RAC Meeting Review for 2002 and the April meeting for 2003 in Washington DC.

- All 23 RAC chairs attended the National RAC meeting in November.
- SEORAC is one of the premier RAC's in the nation.
 - We have never had the problem of not having a quorum.
- One RAC said that they had an annual field trip.
 - SEORAC has one at each meeting.
- Some RAC's do not get along well with each other..
- Great disparity in how RAC members are appointed.
 - Some of the RAC's have 5 grazing interests instead of having a diversity of members.
 - This limits the diversity because all of the stake holders were not there.
- Federal register notices have been taken care of.
- Some of the RAC's have a big problem getting reimbursed for travel.
 - Oregon has set an example of how it should work.
- Lack of national guidelines when there are overlapping boundaries.
 - Other states are having the same problem.
- Each of the four subgroups appointed a representative and Jill Workman was one.
 - Three of four representatives were selected from OR.
- Blue broadcast book, document was excellent

ELAINE BRONG-Questions, Answers, and General Discussions

- How does this administration feel about the Resource Advisory Councils (RAC)?
 - Kathleen Clark is really into using RAC's to reenergize the bureau and is looking at strategies on how to do this.
 - It is an administrative learning process.
 - Oregon and Colorado are the only states that allow the Forest Service (FS) to be involved in the RAC.
 - The RAC's in eastern Oregon would like the FS to trade off being a Designated Federal Official (DFO) with the RAC as the BLM currently is involved.
 - BLM now has a National Coordinator for the RAC's (Twinkle Thompson).
 - This person will help with charter reviews and the nomination process.
 - Elaine is willing to help with the recruitment process for the RAC.
 - This RAC works because of good communication and leadership.
 - Members show up for the meetings and have a quorum so that decisions can be made at each meeting.
 - Elaine really appreciates the RAC member's dedication and would like the RAC's to work on state issues.
- It is ok to send a letter through Elaine to invite the new Washington Office RAC Coordinator, who is located in Arizona, to a RAC meeting.
- The State Office also has a RAC Coordinator (Pam Robbins).
- The new RAC National website prototype is out for review and looks really good.
 - This site will affect all of the other RAC web sites.
- Land health versus rangeland health- message has been carried forward.
- National Energy Plans, are there any plans for RAC to work on these?
 - Oregon does not have major energy resources other than thermal and wind power.
 - RAC's could be asked for assistance in this area.
 - BLM is very involved in Federal Energy Relicensing Commission (FERC).

- Standards and Guides in reality have kept our permits in place.
- Drought-needs a National Policy to address the issues with consistency.
 - OR BLM has asked the District Managers to work locally with all interests in terms of what this means.
 - Some things that need to be considered are fisheries, wildlife, energy (dams in particular with less water), and how we impact others.
- Discussion on when the government does not own the surface but does own the underground minerals-what can be done with this?
 - Could BLM sell these rights or use land exchanges to help generate dollars.
- Issue-sage grouse and habitat restoration across the states.
 - Where do we want to put dollars to get the biggest return for the dollars?
 - Eleven western state governors signed MOU's to make a difference.
- Great Basin Restoration Initiative with forest/range health, and urban interface that overlaps with these areas are on the Presidents list.
- Currently looking at being as competitive as we can get to include all issues to get extra dollars.
- Question on where OR BLM stands on wolf recolonization?
 - BLM would probably treat this issue the same as Idaho currently does.
- **Walt Van Dyke**
 - Oregon Fish and Wildlife has concluded, but not taken a stand of this issue at this time, that Oregon does not have proper habitat to support the wolf.
- Bottom line is to retain the management capabilities.
 - Humans and wolfs do not get along well with each other.
 - Individuals can think a certain way until it hits personally.
 - Attitudes change when our pets and children have been hurt.
- **Tom Dyer**
 - Wild horse and burro's-BLM has an active advisory group at the national level.
 - Tom is on the National Group Meeting that begins tomorrow.
 - This meeting is to address every aspect of the issue.
 - Group is to spend time to review policies with potential fixes.
 - Drastic situation on large herds-drastic measures to fix the local level.
 - Group will look at both short and long term fixes.
 - The US is becoming more urbanized and horses are looked at as pets.
- OHV-Juniper Dunes north of Pasco, WA is very similar to the Christmas Valley Sand Dunes.
 - Controversy surrounding both areas.
 - Suggestion is that the treatment for one would take care of the other.
 - More and more folks want to access public lands.
 - OR BLM is trying to increase Recreation positions in the field offices.
 - OR now has an OHV coordinator in the State Office.
- Herbicide ban in Oregon.
 - Miles Brown in the OR State Office is currently working on this issue.
 - Canada had a recent case that was challenged and able to prove that today's herbicides are safer than they have ever been.
 - New herbicides that are on the market are less damaging than the ones BLM is currently allowed to use.
 - Dollars have been promised to address range/forest health, weeds and water issues
 - Not sure how these dollars will come down, could be through Department of Agriculture, BLM or grants.

- Counties will receive a pay off if they are prepared with plans in place, to take advantage of the dollars, when dollars are made available.
- **Dave Henderson**
 - Native seed workshop in Burns a couple of weeks ago.
 - Farmers are willing to convert fields to native seed.
 - Need startup dollars to make this happen.
 - Long term process to correct.
- **Elaine Brong**
 - National Fire Meeting came up with changes due this year.
 - Director, Forest Service Chief, Secretary and all other agencies are involved.
 - Looking at how to implement prescribed fire and rehabilitation.
 - A lot of communities were recognized and awarded for what they had done.
 - FS and BLM work well together with the Northwest Fire Agency.
 - Pre fire treatment and fire suppression-the nation has modeled their plan after OR.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No one showed up to speak

JACK SHEEHAN-Lakeview Area Fire Salvage/Rehabilitation

- Power point presentation on the Lakeview area fire salvage and rehabilitation for the year 2002.
 - Methods used to control fire
 - Back burns of fire putting out fire.
 - Freemont Point Cabin burned up completely.
 - A lookout also burned.
 - Rice waddles were used that weigh 35 pounds and are 25 foot long.
 - On the side of hills to stop erosion.
 - Last 3-4 years before falling apart.
 - Environmentally friendly.
 - Waddles do not produce weeds.
 - Timber needs to be salvaged within the first year of the fire to get the best yield.
 - Need to salvage to keep the fuel levels down so as not to affect the intensity of new fire.
 - Fire got so big so fast for several reasons.
 - Bad weather and fuel loading contributed.
 - The National Fire Plan should help in the long term to prevent this from happening again.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

North Lake Recreation Plan Subcommittee

Jane O'Keeffe, Marilyn Miller,
Dick Leever, Lee Belknap, and Tom Harris

Birch Creek Management Plan Subcommittee

Marilyn Miller, Jill Workman,
John Bishop, Mike Golden, and Jim Campbell

Malheur County Wildland Fire Board Subcommittee

Walt VanDyke, Bob Kindschy, John Bishop, and
Mark Ferns

Range Health Assessment BLM All Subcommittee

Walt VanDyke, Jill Workman,
Chad Boyd, and Ken Bentz?

JILL WORKMAN-Birch Creek Management Plan Subcommittee

- Two hour meeting planned tomorrow night in Jordan Valley.
- Tom Christensen will put on a power point presentation on Birch Creek Ranch.
 - Then questions and answers.
- April-5 day float trip cancelled for this year due to low water.
- May 6-7 will have a half day float from Hole in the Ground to Birch Creek with a meeting following.
- Anyone from the RAC can join the subgroup for this float trip.
- Walt can get a boat from fish and wildlife if needed.

RANGE HEALTH ASSESSMENT BLM SUBCOMMITTEE**CHAD BOYD, Chair**

- Change the wording limiting the deadline to year 2010.
- Currently permit renewal has to go through the NEPA process even if there are no changes to the expiring permit.
 - This may be accomplished through use of a Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA).
 - Consider skipping the NEPA process when there are no changes.
- If letter is approved the charge is fulfilled.
 - This can generate a lot of information/questions back and forth.
- You get high centered when you have to write an EA.
 - Puts project at risk.
- NEPA opens us up for litigation and new rule making.
- Letter is ready to go to the secretary with the changes agreed on.
 - Send Jill a copy to send to Peggy and she will put on RAC letterhead.
 - Need to send to OR BLM State Director and ask her to forward to the Secretary of Interior.

DICK LEEVER, Chair-North Lake Recreation Plan Subcommittee

- Met in Christmas Valley three times.
- Did a new orientation with the new Lakeview recreation employee Gretchan Burris.
- Took field trip to Sand Dunes and Lost Forest.
- Discussed where we are going with the guidelines of the recreation strategic plan.
 - Decided that this is not a short term project and will go on for a long time.
- Need final RMP then take another field trip to look at other areas?
- Other agencies will need to be looked at too.
- Freemont National Forest is coming up with a plan.
- Deschutes has an OHV area that needs to be looked at.
- Oregon transportation is trying to sell the tourist part and this RAC is looking at recreation.
- Need to address vandalism.
- Christmas Valley Dunes, ASA area of concern.
- Fossil Lake looking at putting a fence up.
- Lost Dunes and other areas that need protected.
- Devil Garden and Black Hills and Crack in the Ground are all areas of concern.
- Planning to put together a public scoping meeting of the local people and what they would support in opportunities.

- Tom Harris and Dick Leever are going to put together a questionnaire to the OHV users on Memorial Day on what they would like to see in the area.
- RAC to take a tour of this area.
- Big area with lots of diversity.
- RAC needs to help Gretchen Burris with this plan.
- Cave Resources and Management Plans need to be added.
- Kiosk's will be placed in some areas.

BOB KINDSCHY, Chair-Malheur County Wildland Fire Board Subcommittee

Dave Henderson

- Frank exchange of ideas.
- Notion of a wildfire forum that will apply to Malheur County.
- Must be careful because of Federal Advisory Committee Act.
- Forum where we can talk about wildfire issues, ie., initial attack, fire goals and objectives.
- What will the group look like? Need representatives from the Watershed Councils, ODF, County Court, Ranching community, Fish and Wildlife and others?
- Need to move forward quickly with issues concerning landowner communication before fire season.
- Next step.... ID and select positions on forum.
- Need to talk to neighboring agency folks and make sure everyone in agreement on what we do here.
- Let us show successes in Malheur County then the neighbors can follow suit with their own plan.

RAC-National RAC Meeting coming up in April

Concerns Jill Workman can take to the National RAC Meeting from this RAC.

- Dave Henderson has a summary of things that other RAC's have done
- Elaine's comments show that National Office has acted on more of the stuff than we thought.
- What else needs to be improved?
 - New member notebook and training.
 - Rangeland health assessment changed to a land based assessment-one of the subgroups brought this up and it was not discussed in the large group.
 - Twinkle Thompson is the new RAC coordinator.
 - Give her until the fall meeting to get organized.
 - Peggy will work towards pulling together a new employee orientation workbook.
 - Suggestion...National Office develop orientation workbook.
 - Need to go through the files and recover decisions that have been made in the past.
 - Pull out from minutes.
 - List letters sent to Washington DC, etc.
 - Consistent funding for the RAC's.
 - National office not aware how inconsistent the funding was and would use Oregon as the model to use for everyone.
 - Periodically get together the three Oregon/Washington RAC's to work on one project.
 - Request an email on OR/WA RAC member addresses.
 - Peggy will update the list of members to the three Oregon RAC's and send out to all the members.

- Peggy to look into the mailing list called list serve.
- Need a process to assure that RAC members are feeding back to their constituents.
Input needs to be fed back.
 - BLM is assuming you are doing this.
- Grazing rule making is done before RAC's have a chance to comment.
 - Message is that there should be involvement ahead of time by the RAC's.
- Suggestion to change the quorum requirements.
 - This applies to when a RAC is stacked to one interest group.
- As soon as the Washington Office agenda comes out for the April meeting, Jill will send it out for comments to take to the meeting.

Dave Henderson

- Strategic planning need to be done on what the RAC wants to do over the course of the year.
- There are a number of things that other RAC's have done.
 - This RAC could use these as a starting point to look at new things.

AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR ROUNDTABLE

Tom Rasmussen-Fremont/Winema National Forest, acting for Steve Ellis

- Karen Shimamoto is the new Forest Supervisor for the Fremont/Winema National Forest.

Tom Rasmussen-Lakeview BLM acting for Steve Ellis.

- Lakeview Resource Management Plan (RMP) protest time is over.
 - The Record of Decision for the RMP will be done next.
 - An adverse energy plan will need to be done too.
 - Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) an issue.
 - Designate percentage of planning area to OHV's, some areas would be closed from use.
 - Some roads closed because of sensitive plants and cultural values.
 - Includes protection of tribal values.
- Drought and grazing major issues.
 - What has been done so far is a letter out to the permittees with coordination of the Forest Service and BLM.
 - Plan to hold town meetings in Silverlake, Paisley, and Adel to work out solutions to the drought.
 - Looking at ways to alleviate the drought affect with short turnouts or non use.
- Wild horses-preparing to haul water this year.
- Two protests have been received to date in Washington D.C. on the Lakeview RMP.

Margaret Bailey acting for Roger Williams, Forest Supervisor Malheur National Forest

- Roger Williams is the new Forest Supervisor for the Malheur National Forest.
- Judge Haggerty has set a preliminary injunction on a Category Exclusions (CE's) on the Malheur National Forest.
 - Only allowed one award was on a county road.
 - Rest (6) were stopped.
- Recently a law suit filed on the Malheur North Fork Grazing Plan claiming that the forest is not meeting conditions in the plan.
- In the process of doing a white paper on grazing at the forest level.
- Malheur County has put together a grant for weed management.
 - Will be advertising the Coordinator Position for the Weed Management Areas.

- Title 2 Program Meeting in Burns on March 11.
- Working towards getting contracting in order so the forest can use local contractors to bid on jobs.
- Appropriations bill had language on trading goods for services and use timber to offset the costs.
 - BLM was included in the language.
 - Language about buyout authority in the bill.
- Both BLM and FS looking at road maintenance, fleet management, and some recreation for competitive sourcing.
 - Competitive Sourcing was initiated in the 60's in the Fair Act and this administration has made it a priority.
 - One group is studying whether a job should go to a private company rather than the government.
 - Studies are time consuming and groups are tasked with coming up with the Most Efficient Organization (MEO).
 - These two groups cannot discuss the work with each other.
 - Question to be answered is what should be government and what should not.
- This administration has taken this to the next level that we have to go back and justify what we are doing with the rules changing as we go.
 - When this study is completed government organizations will look different that they look now.
 - This is a redesign the government organization to compete with the private companies.
 - 850,000 jobs need to be studied nation wide.
- It sounds like you are reducing the cost of the government.
 - Will only cut government employees not make the jobs less expensive?
 - Cost will be the same or not.
- Next year the study will concentrate on GIS and data associated with it.
- Mining information will need to be protected.
- Serious privacy issues.

Tom Dyer-Burns District Manager

- Burns FS/BLM employees that are being studied are talking to the County Court about their concerns of whom these contracts will be given.
 - Contracted work may be done by large companies from out of the area.
 - Large impact on small communities that rely on government jobs with FS/BLM.
 - No language that says the contractor needs to be local.
 - Object is to make us more efficient.
 - We do not know if this will save money.
- 850 horses need to be removed-330 will be removed for this year-not sure if BLM will have the dollars to do this in Oregon this year to reach AML.
 - 300 animals in system in corrals cost is \$700.00 per day to feed these animals.
 - Numbers are going down on our gathers.
 - OR is fairly good shape compared to other states.
 - If there is an emergency because of the drought in another state, the Oregon numbers could change.
- Karla Berg, is a new field manager in Burns.
- Range issues are being worked on in Reno.
 - Proposed changes will require permittee to apply for term permit.

- Fee schedule change for transfers.
- Trying to clarify permit renewal process, NEPA requirements, removal of provisions on conservation use.
- Extend time period on non use from 3 to 5 years.
- Provide for implementing set aside allotments (grass bank).
- Provide the BLM share title on range improvements.
- An emphasis to follow state laws for BLM acquisition of water rights.
- Suggestions are to allow BLM to authorize that landowners to control access.
- Streamline grazing appeal process.
- Who is an affected party.
- Public scoping in the next 60 days: Billings, Montana is March 11, Washington Office is March 13, Reno is March 25.
- Complete implementation policy by June 2003.
- Sept 2004 plan will be completed.
- RAC may need to look at and respond. See handouts.

Dave Henderson-Vale District BLM

- Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP) rollout- good stuff on the internet that they rolled out on this with the news release.
 - Requires incorporation of ICBEMP Science in BLM and FS Land Use Plans.
 - Website: Includes all information on roll out strategy www.icbemp.gov.

Jill Workman/Peggy Diegan

- Logistics on the field trip to Baker City, Tuesday, February 25.
 - Meet at 8:00 AM MT in front of Holiday Inn, Ontario, OR.
- **Possible Agenda items for the next meeting:**
 - Drought
 - Follow up on National RAC meeting
 - Field trip at the sand dunes
 - Strategic planning for next year.
 - Update on the proposed rule making on grazing
 - Quick comments for the scoping
 - May have time frames to meet before the May meeting.

Adjourned at 5:00 PM MT.

February 25, 2003-8:00AM MT-Holiday Inn parking lot-Field Trip to NHOTIC

- Tour of the Interpretative Center included a slide presentation of the history of the Buffalo by BLM Information Specialist, Pam Pettersen.
 - Buffalo stew lunch served following presentation.
- Returned to Ontario by 3:00 PM MT.